

FIRST YEAR

TEXT BOOK



CULTS

Confronting the Enemies of
Truth

DELIVERANCE BIBLE

Cults

Confronting the Enemies of Truth

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INTRODUCTION

A. Class Purpose & Explanation

The Purpose of this course is to identify the errors of our day and is not an in-depth study of the cults. NO CULT deserves that much of your attention. It is important to be careful when investigating the cults because you could be influenced by the false spirit that has inspired them.

We need to put our emphasis on knowing the truth. The Bible is God's Word, the supreme authority and life.

II Peter 1:2-4; 16-21; II Timothy 3:13-17; Philippians 2:16

- We must STUDY the Truth. 2 Timothy 2:15
- We must KNOW the Truth. John 8:32
- We must LOVE the Truth. II Thessalonians 2:10
- We must RESTRAIN iniquity. II Thessalonians 2:7

Speak the Truth in love:

STUDY
This passage

- Ephesians 4:14-15
- 2 Corinthians 2:14-15
- I Corinthians 2:1-16
- Galatians 4:16

Psalms 15:2—*He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and **speaketh the truth in his heart**.*

B. Be sure to begin to MEMORIZE the book of Jude as you take this course.

Read I Corinthians 2:1-15.

1 Cor. 2:12—*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

I Cor. 2:14, 15—*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

Only the True believer in Jesus Christ that continues in the Word of God, taught and revealed by The Holy Ghost can properly understand the Truth so that he can discern and expose the false.

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C. The Definition of a Cult

A cult is a religious movement where faith is distorted and truth is perverted into a lie. (I Cor.2:15; Gal. 1:6-7; Col. 2:8)

- A religious perversion
- An organized heresy
- Strange beliefs and practices centered around false doctrine

1. **A Cult is a False Religion.** A system of religious or spiritual beliefs, especially an informal and transient belief system regarded by others as misguided, unorthodox, extremist, or false, and directed by a charismatic, authoritarian leader.

2. **Warnings about Cults.** Cults feed their system of belief to people for the purpose of control rather than to feed for spiritual growth and good fruit to Glorify God. Cults idolize leaders, teachings and programs. A Cult can arise out of going off track and trying to appropriate even the promises of God through carnal thinking. You can hurt somebody even with the truth by a wrong motive, self-righteous spirit or an unwise approach. Cultic practices are spreading like wild fire because of the lukewarmness in the church. When the church is strong in the Lord and militant in God's power, the gates of hell **cannot** prevail.

Mathew 16:18,19—*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

Paul's advice to the elders in regard to taking care of the church was the same as Christ advice to Peter.

Acts 20:28-32—*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, ...to feed the church of God"*

John 21:15-17—*...Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas ... feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time...feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time... feed my sheep.*

Matt. 7:15-23; John 10:10-38; I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 3:1-4:5; II Peter 2:1-22; Jude 1-2

D. Exhortations - Examine your life by the Word.

Every man should make careful examination of his life before he studies any kind of cultic practices. Paul's admonitions and warnings

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should be cause enough for each of us to make careful doctrinal examination, as well.

II Cor. 13:5; I Cor. 11:28, 31-32; I Tim. 4:15-16; II Timothy 2:15; 3:13-15

The only way to avoid chastening or shorten spiritual correction is to Repent and correct your path immediately!

Why People are Attracted to Cults

I. They have rejected the Gospel.

Because they have rejected the Gospel many are open to just about anything and especially susceptible to the cults.

A. Many people refuse to believe the Gospel because it exposes sin and calls to repentance and there is no fear of God in their heart. David and Paul said it was because there was no fear of God before their eyes.

Psalms 36:1—<<*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.>> The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

Romans 3:18—*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

2 Peter 3:5—*For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God...*

John 3:19-20—*...because their deeds were evil.*

Hebrews 6:4-6—*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened ...6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance...*

Acts 13:46 *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.*

B. Many reject and hate truth because of unbelief.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12—*Now we beseech you, brethren... be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3) Let no man deceive you by any means...12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

1 Tim 4:1-2—*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

II. They have a love for darkness.

John 1:11—*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

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John 3:19-21—*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil...20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

Col. 1:13—*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Rev. 16:10—*...his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*

III. They are spiritually immature.

Hebrews 5:11-14—*For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. (I Peter 2:2)*

2 Timothy 3:16,17—*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

1 Corinthians 3:1—*And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

IV. Their faith has been undermined by spiritual subversion.

Gal. 1:6-9—*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."*

Gal. 3:3,4—*Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 20—*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. 20) For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face.*

Galatians 4:15-17; 5:1; Ephesians 4:14

V. They have intellectual pride.

- 2 Corinthians 11:3,4—*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4) For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*
- 2 Corinthians 1:12—*not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God...*
- 1 Corinthians 1:19-21—*For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."*
- Job 28:28—*And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

The Marks of a Cult

I. Extra-Biblical Revelations

People that get involved with revelations that are **not** in the bible are rebelling against the Supreme Authority. They do not believe that the bible is the only authority for revelation. Extra-Biblical Revelations are not of God. All revelation must be substantiated by the Scriptures. Divine Revelation must be absolutely equal to the scripture without altering one principle.

- 1 Cor.2:13—*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

The Holy Ghost **reveals truth** to the righteous and we place **no limit** on further revelation. We do not have faith in anything that contradicts or **is not in the Bible.**

- Deut. 4:2—*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*
- Deut. 12:32—*What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

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Prov. 30:5—*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

There are many cults that claim 'extra-biblical' revelation:

- Islam - Koran
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints -The book of Mormon
- Jehovah Witnesses-The New World Translation
- New Age-Urantia¹
- Catholic-Apocrypha

II Co r.11:4—*For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

Gal. 1:6,7—*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7—Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*

II. Segmented Biblical attention

- A. Paying attention to fragments of Scripture, and missing the whole.

John 6:12—*When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, **Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.***

Acts 13:10—*And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, **wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?***

Acts 20:27—*For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel of God.***

We need to adhere to all the **COUNSEL OF GOD** (II Tim. 2:15; John 5:39; Rev. 3:18) and all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. (II Tim. 3:16)

There are many people that purposely manipulate Scripture to benefit their own ends. That take portions of the truth and it make it to be whole. A half-truth is a lie and their using Scripture under false pretenses is also lying.

Billy Sunday use to say, "An excuse is the skin of reason stuffed with a lie." Well, it is a common practice of cults to take a skin of truth and stuff it full of lies. One word added or left out can entirely change

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the meaning of something, and what use to be the truth becomes a lie. There is a great personal danger in changing the Word of God. (Revelation 22:18)

“O, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!”
—Sir Walter Scott, from his poem Marmion

We must not fail to pay attention to the entire message of the entire Word of God!

B. Over emphasizing one portion of Scripture to the exclusion of others.

Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for omitting the weightier matters of the Law. - Mt. 23:23. They would strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. (Mt. 23:24) In this error, they became cut off from the truth. Once we move away from the clear intentions of Scripture, we run the risk of becoming cut off from the truth. (II Thess. 2:10; Jer. 7:28; Rev. 22:19)

C. Examples of segmented Biblical attention.

1. Some people only regard Paul's writings as being inspired.
2. Overemphasizing demons.

Every work of the flesh is not a demon. Furthermore, every bad thing that happens in life is not necessarily the devil's fault. (Gal. 5:19-21)

3. Some believe that being water baptized a certain way is essential to salvation.

There is no salvation in water for we are saved through faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for us. (Rom. 5:9, Eph.1:7; Col. 1:14,20; Heb. 9:14)

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4. The Jehovah Witnesses teach salvation by works.

Work are a result of faith. (James 2:17-26.) Works cannot save but works are produced in the believer's life if you are saved. (Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 4:2-3; Titus)

5. Turning the grace of God into a license to sin.

Jude 4—*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

There are some that teach faith without the works of a pure love. They turn the grace of which is the power to live above sin into a license to sin—*lasciviousness*.

We are commanded over and over to **sin not**. (I Jn. 2:1-4; Rom. 6:6, 11-20; 22-23; I Peter 4:1)

We can lose our salvation by dying spiritually. If you can be made alive you can die as well. (Ex. 32:33; Rev. 22:19; Ezek. 3:20, 21; 18:24; 33:13) There is no provision of covering as long as we remain in our sin. The only pattern for salvation is Christ's message of repentance—turn around and stop sinning. There is only ONE sacrifice that can atone for sin and that is Christ's.

Heb 10:26—*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*

6. Charismatic's take positive thinking to the extreme.

The 'Faith Movement' in Charismatic circles has failed to recognize that God's promises are conditional.

- Faith is essential. - Mathew 21:22.
- Holiness is essential - Hebrews 12:14
- Living right is essential. - John 15:7

7. Among the "Prosperity Teachers" financial success is used to measure spirituality.

But God has promised to meet our *needs* not our *greeds*. Philippians 4:19 is a promise given to those that have given unselfishly over and over again. It is not a promise to encourage people to give to get but to remind the faithful that the Lord is truly faithful and won't forget them. (Many heroes of the faith have been described as destitute by temporal measures. Hebrews 11:37)

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Philippians 4:19—*But my God shall supply all **your** need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

III. Producing Their Own Salvation

The philosophies of the Judaizers are still at work. The devil is convincing people to go back to the Old Covenant. Others are trying to observe both the Old and the New Covenant. They are trying to obtain justification before God by the keeping of the Law. This is against Scripture.

The ceremonial law has been abolished. (Col. 2:14-17)

The law as a whole has been fulfilled in Christ. What every Believer needs to understand is that through faith in Jesus Christ we are made righteous and through the righteousness of Christ that comes to us from faith to faith we can and must fulfill all the moral laws of God. The Grace of God has the power to cause us to live above the law and is not merely a license for lawlessness.

Rom. 10:4—*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*

Matt. 5:17—*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

Gal. 2:16—*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith...*

Gal. 3:11—*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

Rom. 13:8 ... *for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

Rom. 13:10—... *therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Gal. 5:14—*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love...*

James 2:8—*If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:*

Salvation is a gift to all who receive Jesus as their Savior. (Rom. 1:16, 10:9-13) There is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile—salvation is *by grace through faith*. (Eph. 2:8,11-22) Christ brought an end to the ceremonial law and satisfied the moral law so that obedience to Christ is life.

John 15:10—*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

Romans 6:6—*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

IV. Slaves to the Structure

A. Cults bring their followers into slavery.

They bring people into Psychological slavery - mind control, as well as, spiritual slavery—bound by sin, bound by religion. Cults create a scenario for complete dependence on the cult. They will supply the basic needs of the people, so that the individual cannot imagine their personal identity without the cult. Because of this infant-like dependence on the group there is much fear involved with leaving the cult no matter how harsh its negative aspects get.

They make slaves of the people by overpowering them with harsh controlling leaders. The leadership in essence becomes the master and lord of each individual's "salvation." This is exactly what God accused the Nicolaitans of doing. God **hated** the deeds of the Nicolaitans in Ephesus (Rev. 2:6) and the doctrines of the Nicolaitans in Pergamos (Rev. 2:15).

That which was only deeds in Ephesus became doctrines in Pergamos. God hates the deeds and God hates the doctrines. They tried to corral those who were doing that which God hated. These were, as is commonly supposed, a sect of the Gnostics, who taught the most impure doctrines, and followed the most impure practices. They are also supposed to have derived their origin from Nicolas, one of the seven deacons mentioned in Acts 6:5. The more natural and obvious supposition is that the Nicolaitans taught the same things which Balaam did.

The Nicolaitans taught the community of wives, that adultery and fornication were things indifferent, that eating meats offered to idols was quite lawful; and mixed several pagan rites with the Christian ceremonies. Augustine, Irenaeus, Clement, Alexandrinus, and Tertullian, have spoken concerning them.

Nicolaus means *victorious over the people*; (Nicolaus & Balaam were heretics.)

"nikos" a conquest; triumph:--victory. "Nike" the means of success:
"Laos" the people, Laity (organization) (Nico**LAITANS**→Lao-diceans)
"Dike" right (as self-evident) self justice, government by the people

The deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans emphasized the clergy controlling the laity.

The church should be well organized according to the truth in the Bible, but organization must not take God's place. People need guidance as well as doctrines, but at no time should we become **lords** over another man's faith. The same God that saved you is well able to save and keep others! Do not seek to **control** another man's experience.

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- 1 Peter 5:3—***Neither as being lords*** over God's heritage, but being ***ensamples*** to the flock.
- 2 Cor. 1:24—Not ***for that we have dominion*** over your faith, but are ***helpers*** of your joy: for by faith ye stand. (1 Cor. 9:12,18; 10:33)
- John 7:17—*If any man will do his will*, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

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B. Truth makes men free.

John 8:32—*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

1. The Holy Spirit brings liberty. - II Cor. 3:17; Gal. 5:1.

John 16:13—*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

God's working is not a force, might or power of man that disregards the individual's liberty in Christ and freedom of choice, but is **by the Spirit of God**. God's Spirit will LEAD men and not DRIVE them. (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18)

Zechariah 4:6—*... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

2. We have been bought with a price.

I Cor. 7:23—*Ye are **bought** with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

I Cor. 6:19,20—*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are **bought** with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

I Peter 1:18,19—*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

3. Christians become servants to God by choice. Rom. 1:1.

a. *doulos* - A love slave, one who chose to continue his servitude.

John 12:26—*If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

Philippians 2:22—*..., as a son with the father, he hath served **with me** in the gospel.*

Romans 1:1—*Paul, **a servant of Jesus Christ**, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,*

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*Acts 27:23—... God, **whose I am, and whom I serve.***

- Committed to The Lord Jesus Christ through the Power of The Holy Ghost
- Committed to the Gospel
- Committed to the Work and Service of God

b. *ap-os'-tol-os-* ("*Called*")**Chosen**,(separated) Loved and sent.

A delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ ("apostle") (with miraculous powers):--apostle, messenger, he that is sent. Mat.22:14; John 15:16; **Acts 9:15**; Eph. 1:4; James 2:5; I Peter 2:4,9; Rev. 17:14

V. Devotion to the Irrational

Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

This church age is hopelessly addicted to the latest trend or fad. This problem has graduated to the extent it does not seem to matter to people how Scripturally sound something is or isn't as long as it is 'new.' This results over and over to the production of and devotion to philosophies that are not only inconsistent with Scripture, but are irrational in general. Many trends of our day may not be biblically wrong in their premise, but their methods must be tested by the Word.

I Cor. 2:15—*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

- **Not—"Purpose Driven"** **-We need to be led by The Holy Ghost.**

BIBLICALLY IRRATIONAL: Fitting God into the box of man's philosophies.

"By the end of the journey [A 40 day commitment to reading his book] you will know God's purpose for your life and will understand the big picture-how all the pieces of your life fit together."

—Rick Warren in *The Purpose-Driven Life*

- **Not—"Promise Keepers"** **-We need to be filled with The Holy Ghost.**

BIBLICALLY IRRATIONAL: Unity at the expense of true Gospel.

"It's so *diluted* and *deluded*, you can't get very much out of it."

—former Promise Keepers member

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"Promise Keepers' teachings are a strange mixture of truth and error. Its methods for promoting these teachings are questionable. Some Scriptural values are taught...they are mingled with pop-psychology and have an ecumenical emphasis, while a charismatic aura pervades the proceedings. One of the Promise Keepers' stated goals is to 'break down denominational barriers, including Catholic, liberals, charismatics, and neo-evangelicals under its banner. It urges its members to 'break down the walls that separate us, to be a bridge builder, and to pray daily for unity among Christians in your community.'"

—A resolution passed at a Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches

- **Not—"Your Best Life Now" -We need to abide in The Holy Ghost.**

BIBLICALLY IRRATIONAL: Telling the people only what want to hear.

"I don't use it [the word 'sinner']. I never thought about it. But I probably don't. But most people already know what they're doing wrong. When I get them to church I want to tell them that you can change. ... So I don't go down the road of condemning."

—Joel Osteen on the "Larry King Live" show

- **Not—"The Battlefield of the Mind" -We need to be fed by The Holy Ghost.**

BIBLICALLY IRRATIONAL: Using the Bible to get the door open.

Answering the question: *"What Happened from the Cross to The Throne?"*

"The Bible can't even find any way to explain this. Not really. That's why you've got to get it by revelation. There are no words to explain what I'm telling you. I've got to just trust God that He's putting it into your spirit like He put it into mine."

—Joyce Meyer, author of *The Battlefield of the Mind*

This generation as a whole does not want anything to do with really serving God and truly following the Gospel of Jesus Christ by departing completely from sin. People have committed themselves instead:

- to people
- to things
- to agendas
- To government control---disabling the individual of responsibility
- to agencies
- To operation a/b/c
- To big corporation

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John 12:26—*If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

VI. Exclusive of Others

A. Cults become exclusive of all others.

Those outside the group are considered enemies. They alone have the answers. Their **group** is the only way of salvation.

1. Jehovah Witnesses declare their group is the only way to God.
2. Mormons believe their group is the way.
3. Catholics believe their religion saves them

B. **Jesus is the only way for Salvation.** (Acts 4:10-12; Rom. 10:13)

Salvation, Healing and Deliverance are available to **all who come to Jesus.**

1 Peter 2:24—*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

James 5:13 -16; Mat.10:1; Mark 6:13; Luke9:2; Psalms 103:2-5; Jer. 33:6; 46:1— (Read Hebrews 4:15-16); Ex. 15:26; Psalms 107:20; Isaiah 53:5; Read Jeremiah 30:12 -17.

Mark 9:23—... *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to **him that believeth.***

John 11:40; 2 Chron. 16:12; Psalms 147:3; Luke 6:19; Luke 7:21; Mat. 13:58; Mark 6:56

2 Chron. 36:16—*But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, **till there was no remedy.***
{remedy: Heb. healing}

Luke 17:5—*And the apostles said unto the Lord, **Increase our faith.***

VII. Uncertain Hope

Cults produce uncertainties instead of certain hope—could be, maybe, someday, possibly, might be, etc.

Jer .18:12—*And they said, **There is no hope:** but we will walk after **our own devices,** and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.*

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God didn't leave man without a **Hope of Salvation**.

I Peter 3:15—... *be ready always to give an answer...a reason of the **hope** that is in you...*

Rom. 8:20—... *by reason of him who hath subjected the same **in hope**,*

Hebrews 6:19—*Which hope we have as an **anchor of the soul**...*

VIII. Presenting a New Leader (worship of man)

They have not the faith in Jesus Christ. Their followers are ruled and driven apart from Love of Christ by human leadership. They have not the faith in Jesus Christ because too much emphasis is placed on human leadership.

*John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him **follow me**....* (Mat. 4:19; Mark 12:33;)

IX. Those that do not believe in the three Persons of the Godhead

There is absolutely one God. God is three Persons: Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Father, Son and Holy Ghost are co-equal and co-eternal.

Eph 2:18—For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. (Matt. 3:16,17; I Cor. 8:6;12:3)

X. Financial Exploitation

Merchandising the message, When you always must pay a membership fee to be involved. (II Pet. 2:1-3) Many cults are only interested in money. This includes charismatic leaders. It is shame how people who profess to be ministers of the Gospel Manipulate people to give money.

People give on the lie they can purchase salvation, God's blessing or favor, health and well being, or a guaranteed prosperous return. Roman Catholics are deceived into paying money to free souls from 'purgatory' or gain some kind of justification.

Salvation comes free because of the blood of Jesus that was shed. The **gift** of God is eternal life. - Rom. 6:23. Justified **freely** by His grace. - Rom. 3:24. God's blessing cannot be **purchased** with money. - Acts 8:18-24. But always remember the price Jesus paid on the cross. The price of our sin debt was paid in full. John 19:30 "**It is Finished**"—Redemption is accomplished.

Personal Safeguards Against Cults

I. Spiritual Growth

The spiritual infant must not tarry too long in infancy. It is a critical time because they are easily taken advantage of by cultists. God has designed it to be a time of much growth and if one lays back or holds back (especially in rebellion, disobedience, doubt, or fear) it will be detrimental to their spiritual growth.

1 Peter 2:2—*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” They need to receive and be fed.*

The most important thing in the life of a new Christian is spiritual growth. The key to developing Christian maturity is the study of God’s Word

1 Timothy 4:16—*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

2 Timothy 2:15—*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

John 8:31-32—*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

II. True Wisdom

In what does true wisdom consist? True wisdom consists in simple obedience to God and His Word. We should seek after only the wisdom that comes from God.

III. Bible Memorization

Bible Memorization is used to defeat the cults. Memorize **only** the truth but don’t be ignorant of the devil’s devices.

Ps. 119:104—*Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

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Ps. 119:128—*Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I **hate every false way.***

2 Peter 1:3—*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that **hath called us to glory and virtue:***

1 Peter 5:10; 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:4; 7; John 17:17; **2 Thess. 1:12**

A. Memorize the Word of God.

The value of memorizing Scripture can never be overstated.
Never, Never No Never! Ps. 119:9-11

B. Memorize the word for spiritual wisdom and strength.
Matt. 4:4; II Cor. 3:6,15-18; John 1:1-5,9, 12, 14, 17; 3:15, 16, 36;
5:39; 6:27, 35, 48, 51, 57-58, 68; 14:6;17:3; 20:31; I John 1:7; 2:24-26;
4:9; 5:11-13, 20; II Peter 1:2-11

C. Memorize the Word for truth against the false.
I Tim.6:20; II Tim. 2:16

John 8:32—*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Psalms 119:11—*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Ps alms 37:31—*The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*

Eph. 4:14—*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

Col. 2:8—*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Prov. 14:12—*There is a way **which** seemeth right unto a man...*

Prov. 16:25—*There is a way **that** seemeth right unto a man...*

IV. Clear Biblical Understanding of Truth

A. There is the truth of **Christianity**,

It is a fact that there is a living and true God Who created the universe and Who loves us and has a plan for our lives. In the midst of a corrupt, depraved world that pulls every living thing down into the grave of death, there is the truth that God is and God loves. It is man's

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sin that has brought corruption and death into the world. Christianity declares God's love for the world. He is not a God of hate who has left man in the dark, groping and grasping about, trying to discover the truth about life and its source, purpose, and end. He is a God of love who has sent His only Son to remedy man's problems. God's way is the true order of life.

John 1:1-5; 3:16-21; 8:32; 36; 14:6; 1Thess. 1:9

B. True Deity and True Humanity

1. The Fullness of God in Christ as a Man

Always view Christ from the Scripture. Always view your position in Christ from the scripture.

2. Viewing the Messiah in the Scripture

Christ put emphasis on the inspiration of the Scriptures. Christ is God's Son, Lord and man as the Son of David. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, both God and man, Divine and human. Jesus questioned them about what others were saying about Him in order to identify what they believed for themselves—less or more. Christ was not just telling them He was the Messiah, but was looking for them to receive that revelation from God like Peter did in Matthew 16:17. They had already been given the Scriptures that claim the Messiah would be Divine and human, both Lord and Christ and they were responsible for that already. (**Matthew 22:42-45**; 1 John 4:1-3; Colossians 2:9, 10)

Acts 2:36—*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.***

C. The Triune God

Acts 10:38; 2 Cor. 13:14; Luke 4:18; Hebrews 1:9; Mat.3:16-17

Peter's Testimony Acts 4:25-

27

Paul's Testimony Acts 13:33

The Triune Testimony

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---|
| • God the Ruler | Psa. 2:1-6 | voice of the Father
"Lord" |
| • God the Mediator | "Son" | voice of the Son Psa.2: 7-9 |
| • God the Comforter | Psa. 10-12 | voice of the Holy Ghost
"Trust in Him" |

Luke24:49; John 2:22; 8:17-18, 42;
12:16;14:16;15:26;16:7,13;17:1,3,5,21-26; 14:26; Rom.15:30; Gal.
4:6;1 John 2:20, 23, 27; 5:7; 2Jn.1:9;

2 Cor. 13:14—*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen* (Eph. 2:5-7, 10, 13, 14, 18)

*The Father is God - The Son is God - The Holy Ghost
 is God*

1 John 5:7—*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

John 8:13, 14; 1 John 5:2, 15, 18, 19, 20

1 John 2:18-24—22 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.* 23

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Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

- 1 John4:1—*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*
- 1 John4:14—*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*
- 1 John2:26—*These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.*
- 1 John 4:6—*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

The Christian Responsibility to Cults

What is every Christian's primary responsibility with regard to cults? To be true and faithful stewards with the Word of God! What makes cultic points of view attractive? They have parts of truth—some truth but it is the mixture that is dangerous. We are duty bound to be so familiar with truth that we can detect when something is only a little 'off.' The Believer has been given power and authority over all the power of the enemy.

I. The Power and Authority of the Believer

A. The Believer's Power and Authority is from God.

Luke 9:1—Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

1 Peter 5:8—**Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- Be of a sober spirit
- Be vigilant

The authority of the Believer is over the devil and his efforts to destroy God's purpose for our lives. One of the **most important messages** is to be considered in this lesson is that God has invested into the Believer His power and authority.

*Luke 9:1—Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them **power** and **authority** over all devils, and to cure diseases.*

*John 1:12—But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

*Matt. 10:1—And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them **power** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

*2 Cor. 10:8—For though I should boast somewhat more of our **authority**, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:*

*Titus 2:15—These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all **authority**. Let no man despise thee.*

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The Believer cannot be hindered or stopped by the devil if he knows how to properly use what God has promised and provided. We must be aware of God's provision, but we must also learn how to put that promise to practice.

All that God has promised is added to our lives as we diligently **believe** Him. Such faith requires implicit **obedience**. Believe and Obey.

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B. What does this Power and Authority Mean?

Five different Greek words...

exousia, Gr. authority; privilege, capacity, competency, mastery

dunamis, Gr. force, specially, miraculous power

kratos, Gr. vigor ("great") --dominion, might(-ily), power, strength.

arche, Gr. a commencement, or chief, first (estate), magistrate, power

...that are translated almost interchangeably.

Greek	Col. 2:15	Luke 9:1	Luke 10:19	Eph. 1:19	Eph. 1:21
<i>exousia</i>	"powers"	"authority"	"power"	-	"power"
<i>dunamis</i>	-	"power"	"power"	"power"	"might"
<i>kratos</i>	-	-	-	"power"	-
<i>arche</i>	"principalities"	-	-	-	"principalities"
<i>kuriotes</i>	-	-	-	-	"dominion"

Power and authority are so intimately related, it is difficult to separate the one from the other. Both power and authority are promised and at no time do we have to be **with** power and **without** authority or vice versa.

For the sake of study, 'power' and 'authority' are distinct in that:

- Power is CAPACITY. "18-Wheeler" -the capacity to go 80 mph
- Authority is RIGHT. "Police Officer" -the right to say, "Stop!"

C. Qualifications to Exercise the Authority of God

What are the Qualifications to exercise this Authority?

1. We need to have right knowledge with a true experience.

Eph. 1:3, 19, 21 ←a place or position of power and authority promised.

2 Peter 1:2-10 ←Are we using the power and authority that is promised?

Hebrews 12:2—*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,*

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*despising the shame, and is set down at the right **hand** of the throne of God. (Acts 19:14-16)*

2. We need to exercise faith with power.
 - To live in accordance with Truth I Tim. 2:7; Titus 1:1
 - Faith with power II Thes.1:11; Acts 6:8; I Cor. 2:5; I Pt. 1:5

Matthew 23:23—*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the **weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith**: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

3. We must demonstrate true humility—complete confidence in God's power.
Luke 10:20; 2 Cor. 7:9; Rom. 10:5; Gal. 2:20; James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:5, 6; Micah 6:8; John 6:57

II. The Need to Confront

Do we care enough to confront? Before comfort there must be a true confronting. Read Galatians 6:1-10.

Gal. 6:1,2—*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

What is the Churches responsibility when a professing Christian commits a sin? Confronting is for true brethren that are spiritual to do. True brethren that are spiritual have the responsibility to confront the man that has been overtaken in a fault that he might be restored.

A. **Brethren**, if a man be overtaken in a fault...

Always confront the wrong with the truth. Spiritual brethren must use the truth of Gods' Word to confront the wrong. (John 1:11; Ps 69:8; 122:8; 133:1; Prov. 6:10-19)

Confronting wrong is always done while depending on the grace of God to help. (Gal. 1:6; 2:21; 6:18) Where the grace of God is depended on there will be boldness and a prayer life. Boldness and a consistent prayer life is so important in striving for the restoration of the one overtaken. Because he is hurt, hopeless and many times bitter, it is impossible to renew him to repentance.

Paul confronted Peter:

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Galatians 2:11—*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.*

In 3 John 1:9,10, Paul commits to confronting Diotrephes during his next visit.

I Cor. 8:12—*But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

Rom. 8:12—*Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors**, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

Rom. 7:4; 8:13; 9:3; 10:1; 11:25; 15:15, 30; 16:17; 1 Cor. 1:10, 11; 3:1; 4:6; 6:5, 8; 7:24

1John 3:16—*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

Instead of watching our wounded soldiers fall to the way side and simply continuing on our solo march, we should carry a deep concern for our brethren that have fallen. We are commanded in this to the very extent of laying down our lives for the brethren—our life for theirs.

The word “fault” (trespass, or sin) means *to stumble or fall*. No matter how many have fallen we need to carry to them a message of reconciliation to God **“Be reconciled to God.”** Rom. 4:25; 5:15-20; II Cor. 5:17-20 ; Eph.2:1-5—**But** God...

James 5:16—**Confess your faults** one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

B. Ye that are **spiritual...**

I Cor. 2:15—*But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

I Thess. 5:21—*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

1. **Restore** such an one Mt 4:21 Mt 21:16 1Co 1:10
2. In the spirit of meekness
3. **Considering thyself**, lest thou also be tempted

C. **Bear** ye one another's burdens...

The best possible way to restore someone is to **confront them face to face** about their behavior, beliefs and attitudes. It is not easy and most people try to avoid confrontation (Matt. 18:15), but it becomes so helpful and necessary. More often than not we are dealing with issues in peoples' lives that concern eternity. Our own discomfort and unease are a small price to pay if we can win a brother!

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1. Situations when confrontation is necessary:
 - a. When someone has offended or purposely hurt you.
 - b. When someone is displeasing to God through their behavior
 - c. **Only** under submission to the Pastor and in the fear of God.

2. Questions to ask yourself before confrontations.

- a. **What is my motive?**

Do I genuinely care about this person or are they just getting on my nerves? Correct motivation for confrontation includes: 1)To restore the person to fellowship and growth. 2)For God to show His love for them through you. 3)To help the person to know the truth and to love it and to live it

- b. **Am I sure God is leading me to confront right now?**

Pray for the Holy Ghost to deal with them and lead you. Take your time and pray much about the confrontation. Am I sure God is leading? Have I fully examined mine own self in this area I desire to confront?

Mat. 7:3, 4; II Cor. 13:5

- c. **Have I really tried to understand the person's action?**

Do I have the facts right? Go to the Brethren that can judge brethren righteously. (Deut. 1:16)

- d. **Have I planned what I would say?**

Your tone of voice, the words and the way you use the words are very important. Especially do not use anger as your dominant expression. (Prov. 12:18; James 1:19; Psalms 115:3; Prov. 17:9; Deut. 13:14)

- e. **Have I anticipated what they might say and how I would answer?**

- f. **Have I considered the consequences?**

Dangerous people and things need to be confronted and stopped both in the church and in society at large. (Acts 20:26; Gal. 2:11; Mat. 16:23)

I Sam. 17:29—*And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?*

Cultic Philosophies in the Church

The false philosophies of the devil are creeping into the church. Although most of them are not apparently present by name, careful observation shows their undeniable influence in the church.

I. Gnosticism

What does the heresy of Gnosticism deny and what does it teach instead?

- A. Denies that faith is essential to salvation.
- B. Teaches that knowledge is essential to salvation.

Gnostics emphasize knowledge [gnosis] rather than faith [pistis]. Gnosticism is not by faith but is intellectual. Gnosticism ideals so-called rational knowledge.

The Gnostic's concept of God is more subtle than most cults in that it unites and reconciles all the claims of Monotheism, Polytheism, Theism, Deism and Pantheism!

Theism- belief that one God created and rules humans and the world.

Deism - a belief in God based on reason rather than revelation and involving the view that God has set the universe in motion but does not interfere with how it runs. Deism was especially influential in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Pantheism- the belief that God and the material world are one and the same thing and that God is present in everything

We need Faith in Jesus Christ and to be persuaded by the facts of the Word of God. We need God's grace in order to live a moral and righteous life in the fear of God. **Knowledge alone is not enough.**

II. Phenomenalism

What does the heresy of phenomenalism deny and what does it teach instead?

- A. Denies that the just shall live by faith.
- B. Teaches that the just shall live by sight.

They reject the existence of God and also deny that which is experienced by faith. Instead, sensory phenomena, is called "pure data" whose existence is to be considered before anything else: objects are *logical constructions* out of sense-data or ideas. In

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epistemology and the philosophy of perception, **phenomenalism** is the view that physical objects do not exist as things in themselves but only as perceptual phenomena or sensory stimuli situated in time and in space. Simply, objects exist only because I perceive them to exist.

[Practical Athiests and Logical Positivists hold a somewhat parallel theory in that **knowledge** can be acquired only through direct observation and experimentation, and not through theology or faith.]

III. Secularism

Secularism is the exclusion of religion from public affairs; the belief that religion and religious bodies should have no part in political or civic affairs or in running public institutions, especially schools. Secularism is the rejection of religion or its exclusion from a philosophical or moral system .Secularism is the false way. Public Officials have suffered a great falling away in principles. We have come a long way since the days of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson or Abraham Lincoln—all were men who knew our public system's success was ultimately dependent on God.

The voice of secularism is seeking our allegiance and much of its reasoning has influenced even Christian thought. Many Christians believe the church should not get involved in politics or public education. The church has allowed secularism to intimidate it into a powerless corner of tolerance and apathy.

Secularism claims this world is all there is. They say that there is no Divine being behind the scenes of this world. Their voice is heard saying, "Look at the universe, the earth, this age in which you live, for this is all there is. So live it up, do what you want, and do it now—for today is the only day to live for."

For the sinner it is always a downhill road that gets worse and worse, but for the Believer it only gets better and better and the best is always yet to come. A popular trend of thought among Christian's today that causes them to focus on the temporal more than the spiritual and eternal is undoubtedly the influence of secularism at work.

The emphasis of secularism is the here and now, ultimately including the elimination of any thought of God. Hence, secularism allows us to live as we wish. "If it feels good, do it"—no consequences, no responsibility, no guilt, *need of nothing*. This is the philosophy and the blatant message splashed across the television, movie screens, and most other forms of media in the world today as well as within the backslidden church.

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Revelation 3:17—... *thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

Revelation 3:20—*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

The Lord is on the outside knocking wanting to be invited in.

IV. Humanism

Humanism claims that this is a man-centered world having man as its highest authority. Man is the center of the universe and by default his own savior. When it comes to life, man must save himself by eliminating conflict and war and by developing technology, science, and medicine to extend his life and to make life more comfortable.

The world says that there is no god or power beyond man himself. Our health and life and future rest completely in our own hands. We are the determining masters of our own fate. Humanism is a philosophy being taught so widely that it is weakening the faith of multitudes worldwide.

Man is a spiritual creation and needs more than that which comes from the natural realm in order to truly live. (Matthew 4:4; Ps. 107:20; Psalms 42:11;43:5; Prov. 3:8;4:22;12:18;13:17;16:24; Jer. 30:17;33:6; 3 John 1:2; Prov. 3:5-14)

V. Relativism

Relativism is a belief in changeable standards: the belief that concepts such as right and wrong, good and bad, or truth and falsehood are not absolute but change from culture to culture and situation to situation

Relativism is taught by people who say there are no moral absolutes, nothing to fear, and to question all authority. They say that the Ten Commandments are only suggestion and not commandments.

In relativism, each situation determines what is right or wrong. An action may be wrong today, but right tomorrow. Then on another occasion and at a different time, it may be wrong again. This is what is known as *situation ethics*. This philosophy allows man to change the rules according to each situation. Therefore, there really are no rules.

Nothing is ever "always right" or "always wrong" for all behavior is relative. There simply are no moral absolutes or so they think.

Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Prov. 24:21

VI. Materialism

Materialism is a philosophy theory of the physical: the theory that physical matter is the only reality and that psychological states such as emotions, reason, thought, and desire will eventually be explained as physical functions. It focuses on possessions: devotion to material wealth and possessions at the expense of spiritual or intellectual values.

Materialism focuses only upon the material possessions and pleasures of this world. The primary focus is a life of ease, comfort, and pleasure. Sensual pleasure and material possessions become the focus of a person's life in materialism.

"There is nothing beyond this material universe; consequently, a person should enjoy the sensual pleasures and the comforts of this world every day of his life." This philosophy is eating away at individuals and societies, arousing people to crave more and more possessions and more and more power and more and more pleasure. As a result, the work ethic and integrity of millions are being destroyed and the very stability of nations is being affected.

Col 3:2 1 Tim. 6:5; 9, 10; 17; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Tim. 2:4; Luke 8:14

VII. Pragmatism

Pragmatism claims that truth is determined by practical results. If it works, it is truth and it should be done. Therefore, if you find that some behavior or action works for you, if it produces the results you want then do it. It is *practical* or *pragmatic* for you.

Even if it means disobeying God's commandments or God's Word, do it. "The end justifies the means" is a good example of this philosophy. For instance, if a salesperson or a company stretches the truth in advertising its product and as a result sells many more of the item, then the sales gimmick worked. Therefore it is the "right thing" to do—even though the truth was stretched to a lie and the public was deceived.

Romans 3:4; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8

VIII. Evolution and its Hybrids

A. Theory vs. Faith

THEORY-Evolution is the Answer	FAITH-God is the Answer
Speculation, assumption, supposition, presumption, guesses	Confidence, trust, assurance, conviction, devotion, obedience
Vague ideas that constantly change.	Absolute facts that never change.

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Put together by man's thinking.	Built on God's Word.
Underlying humanism is present.	God-centered view is present.
Man has no absolute 'purpose' (accidental).	Man's purpose is to fellowship with God.
Existence ends at death.	Must answer to God's final judgment.
Shifting Sand	Solid Rock
Lies	Truth
No provision for a savior.	Faith in Jesus is basis of salvation.

Gen. 2:7; 1Cor. 1:9; Heb 9:27

B. Origin of Evolution

The theory of evolution has many beginnings that cannot be agreed upon. Evolution was a theory in Egypt; they taught that life evolved from the slime on the Nile River. This made the Nile the object of their devotion. Also, Aristotle taught evolution in 400 BC. Charles Darwin only wrote down some theories without really any extensive **scientific** work. Others have taken those ideas and have tried to make them popular.

Faith in creation has absolutely one beginning: God created everything.

Gen. 1:1—*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*
Gen. 1:27; 2:4,7; 5:1 ,2; Col 1:16,17; John 1:1-4; Gen. 1:26-27; Job 33:4; John 17:5;

C. The Theory of Evolution is the foundation for humanism, racism, and many other related dangerous ideas.

Humanism teaches that man is his own god leaving him to his own destruction or exaltation. Evolution and Humanism both lead to **racism**. Read the whole title of Darwin's book. (emphasis added)

"The Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection
or, The Preservation of **Favoured Races** in the Struggle for Life"

Evolution is the foundation for socialism, communism², Nazism, one world religion, New World order, and other types of racism.

Evolution is based on slime, soup, rocks and a big bang that tries to destroy all moral values and lie to every person that will listen.

John 8:44—*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

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Karl Marx's 1848 Communist Manifesto outlined how to destroy a country:

1. Abolish private property.
2. Heavy progressive income tax. (The more they make the more you take.)
3. Abolish rights of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of property rights.
5. Central bank (owned and operated by the federal government)
6. Government ownership of **Communication** and **TRANSPORTATION**.
7. Government ownership of factories and agriculture.
8. Government control of labor.
9. Corporate farms, regional planning
10. Free education by government controlled schools
11. Hitler said control the text book, control the state.

Communism and socialism are the enemies of liberty and Capitalism. Communism will destroy America if America doesn't destroy communism. Communism robs the individual of the same opportunities that their forefathers had and many of them laid down their lives to protect.

Communist Rules for Revolution

1. Corrupt the young; get them away from true religion.
2. Break down the moral virtues.
3. Encourage civil disorders and a soft government attitude towards crime.
4. Divide the people into hostile groups (race/religion/homosexuality)
5. Get the people's mind off their government by focusing their attention on sports, sex, work, tolerance, etc.
6. Get control of all media.
7. Destroy people's faith in their leaders.
8. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, with a view to confiscate them and leaving the populace helpless

Isa. 42:5—*Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:*

Mal 2:10—*Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

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America has always been founded on Christian principles and from its very beginning **has been blessed of God.** (Isaiah 18:2,7; Acts 2:5,21)

- From the beginning America has been protected with moral values.
- Real Americans must rise up now or this nation will fall as well.
- Jesus Christ is Lord and every knee shall bow.

Jer. 50:12—*Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, **the hindermost of the nations** shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert*

Jer. 50:15—*Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.*

God will Judge America for her sin if she does not repent.

Evolution is fabricated



Creation is founded upon the Word of God

Heb 1:2,3—*Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Faith in Jesus Christ Is the basis of Salvation. Man's theories will not save anybody.

John 14:6—*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

(Mathew 1:21; Mark 1:15; Luke 5:32; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9,10; I Cor. 3:11)

IX. Mindlessness

Mindlessness is a path of life followed by many.

Mindless a) boring: uninteresting as a result of requiring little mental effort. b) purposeless: having no apparent purpose or rational cause. c) unconcerned: not careful or concerned .

Phil. 2:5; Hebrews 12:2-3; Isaiah 26:3; 1 John 3:8

Mindlessness indicates that a person walks through life thoughtlessly, seldom if ever giving attention to proper behavior, the future, God, or to any possibility of life beyond this world.

The mindless person lives just for today, wrapped up in his own life and thoughts, his own desires and wants. Little if anything concerns the person other than his own self-centered world. We need to be led by the Holy Ghost not driven by some selfish purpose. A person with this mindset simply gets up each day and goes about his activities with no thought as to consequences or outcome or how his behavior might affect others. There is no plan, no structure, nor purpose to the person's life other than to plow through another day.

Curious Fascination of the Darkness

I. Occult

I John 4:1—*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

A. Definition of the Occult

The word Occult comes from the Latin word *ocultus*: things hidden, secret, and mysterious. The occult deals with operations or events which seem to depend upon human powers to go far beyond the five senses. The occult deals with the supernatural, the presence of demonic forces, and even the paranormal.

B. Danger of the Occult

It is dangerous to deny its existence or to be ignorant of its devices. An equal error is to have an unhealthy interest in the occult. (II Cor. 2:11; Rom. 16:9; I Tim. 4:1)

A Major Warning. Playing around with the occult will lead to serious mental and spiritual problems. Be Aware of the ongoing spiritual battle between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of satan. We need to be aware of the workings of the satanic realm but

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not to the point of unhealthy fascination, obsession or any kind of involvement. God judges and condemns all traffic with demons. (Ex. 20:3; Mat.4:10; John 12:31; I Cor. 10:20; Eph.4:27; 1 John 3:8)

1 Tim. 4:1—*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

C. Disciples of the Occult

What kind of people get involved in the occult?

Curious, easily influenced, dissatisfied, sad, rebellious, etc.

(Children are greatly influenced and programmed by the filthy habits of adults.)

Remember:

- There is the Occult—is an organized group.
- There are Occult practices—are collected from the influence of the occult.

Most are totally unaware of it, but the occult influence is spread through TV, books, Radio, schools, societies and internet.

1. **Escapists**—one who will not accept responsibility and reality.

An old cliché→The devil made me do it

2. **Superstitious**—explaining the natural by invisible forces and rules at work. “Old wives fables” and silly lore of men.

3. **Victims**

Victims, yes but were they watching, praying and really seeking the Lord?

Victims but:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| • Uncommitted | • Gullible, Naive | • Rebellious | • Credulous |
| • Curious | • Inconsistent | • Crazy | |
| | | • Conditioned | |

Knowing God judges all dealings with the devil there should never be any room to negotiate or compromise with the devil. As a Christian we are to be spiritually discerning all things.
1 Corinthians 2:15; 1Co 6:2,3; 1 Cor. 11:31; Heb 5:14.

II. Witchcraft

Witchcraft is evil in the sight of God.

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Gal. 5:21—... *they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

I Sam. 15:23; II Chron.33:6; Gal. 5:20; I Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 13:6-12; Acts 19:19; Mark 13:22; Deut. 18:9-14

ankhs
pyramids
lucky
charms
talisman
amulet
cryptogram
Zodiac
medallions
games
rabbit foot
necklaces
Cosmetics
bracelets
rings
Deck of
cards
trinkets
mascot
astrology
symbols
jewelry
genie in a
bottle
lip stick
earrings
drugs

A. Beware that the devil exists

2 Cor. 11:14-15

B. Beware of his motive

He wants adoration worship attention Mt 4:1-11

C. Beware of his methods

- To devour I Peter 5:8; John 10:10
- To deceive 2Co 11:3; 2Th 2:9-10

Galatians 5:20—*Idolatry, **witchcraft** [pharmakeia], hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*

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Revelation 9:21—*Neither repented they...of their **sorceries** [pharmakeia]...*

Revelation 18:23—*... for by thy **sorceries** [pharmakeia] were all nations deceived.*

Pharmakeia (Eng., pharmacy etc.) primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells; then, poisoning; then sorcery. . . . In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc.

Sorcery and witchcraft are tied into the grossest sins and are judged of God.

Dangers of Tolerating Evil

There are dangerous influences around us every day that are seemingly harmless. While we are intimidated by the voices of "Don't be so strict. It's just innocent fun." millions of souls are being influenced and destroyed. We must be watchful and try the spirits according to the Word of God.

Let us look at four examples of such influences. These four influences are widely promulgated as harmless, non-spiritual, or non-moral issues. On the contrary, there are powerful spiritual influences at work behind these and many, many more issues. This list is not at all extensive, but contains only a few examples taken out of a multitude of possibilities.

I. Virtual Reality

People live in a make believe world. They become so attached with the imagined and concocted that they become completely detached from reality. The multitude of ideas involved with escaping reality into a 'virtual reality' involve role playing games, to video games, and the use of drugs and alcohol.

The late dangerous Timothy Francis Leary is an example of who we all need to stand strong against. President Richard Nixon once called him "the most dangerous man in America." An icon of 1960s counterculture, Leary is most famous as a proponent of the therapeutic, spiritual and emotional benefits of LSD. He coined and popularized the catch phrase "Turn on, tune in, drop out." Leary was a corrosive influence on society and his ideas continue to infect our world.

"During the 1980s and 90s the charismatic Leary styled himself as a postmodern guru, and celebrated computer technology as a utopian, boundary-demolishing force. He took leave of life in the style in which he had lived it, detailing his illness and drug-taking on a website. In 1997 a Spanish satellite carried some of his ashes into space."³

Virtual Reality may seem harmless to some but the effects are startling, It can be used to take the place of the real person and result in the individual doing things they wouldn't normally do. Virtual Reality's development is heightened by the fact that many are instantly willing to believe that it is in contrast and unimposing on genuine reality. There are undoubtedly many dangerous possibilities that result from such experimentation and philosophies. **It does have real life consequences.**

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The Word of God warned us of these things

Rev. 13:12—*And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein **to worship the first beast**, whose deadly wound was healed.*

II. Homosexuality

Homosexuality is an abomination in the sight of God and the trend of the world has been to soften toward it as time goes along. It is dangerous because of its rebellion against the order of God, it's direct social impact and its indirect influences. The spirit of homosexuality is repulsive and infectious.

Galatians 5:19—*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*

Homosexuality is adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lasciviousness.

Rev.22:14:15 (loving that which is contrary to God and making up lies)

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father you will do

Revelation 21:8:

Fearful
Unbelieving
Abominable
Murderers
Whoremong
ers
Sorcerers
Idolaters
All liars*

*It's not a problem in their genes; it's an evil perverted spirit in their body. Homosexuality is a choice and an evil decision. No matter what excuses have been made, God will judge this sin of perversion.

- A. Fire
- B. Brimstone
- C. Second death

2 Corinthians 7:1; I John 1:7, 9; Isaiah 1:18

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The right decision for everyone is to be cleansed from every sin.

James 1:14-15 Drawn away of his own lust and enticed

Lust brings forth sin -----sin brings forth death
The unclean devils seek to live in a body. (Judges 19:23)

God destroyed four cities with fire for Homosexuality. (Gen. 19:1-17; 23-28) Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 7)

I Kings 14:24 Sodomites-abomination, the Lord cast out.

II Kings 23:7 Josiah broke down the Sodomites houses.

Lev. 18:22—**Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.**

III. Aids

Aids: Civil Rights or Civil Wrong?

The Judgment of God on promiscuous living has resulted in Aids. Aids was widely spread in its American infancy primarily by homosexual men. We fail to discern over and over the entirety of the consequences of our social blunders and spiritual errors.

"The widely accepted theory is that HIV/AIDS originated in a monkey or chimpanzee virus that "jumped species" in Africa. However, it is clear that the first AIDS cases were recorded in gay men in Manhattan in 1979, a few years before the epidemic was first noticed in Africa in 1982. It is now claimed that the human herpes-8 virus (also called the KS virus), discovered in 1994, also originated when a primate herpes virus jumped species in Africa. How two African species-jumping viruses ended up exclusively in gay men in Manhattan beginning in the late 1970s has never been satisfactorily explained."⁴

Responsible and principled action must be **taken now.**

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a fatal transmissible disease of the immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV slowly attacks and destroys the immune system, the body's defense against infection, leaving an individual vulnerable to a variety of other infections and certain

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malignancies that eventually cause death. AIDS is the final stage of HIV infection, during which time fatal infections and cancers arise.

The Emergence of AIDS

AIDS was first reported in 1981 by investigators in New York and California. Initially most cases of AIDS in the United States were diagnosed in homosexual men, who contracted the virus primarily through sexual contact, and in intravenous drug users, who became infected mainly by sharing contaminated hypodermic needles.

HIV/AIDS spread to epidemic proportions in the 1980s, particularly in Africa. Spread was likely facilitated by several factors, including increasing urbanization and long-distance travel in Africa, international travel, changing sexual morals, and intravenous drug use. By 2002 AIDS had claimed over 25 million lives worldwide. Approximately 40 million people throughout the world are infected with HIV. People living in sub-Saharan Africa account for more than 70 percent of all infections, and in some countries of the region the prevalence of HIV infection of inhabitants exceeds 10 percent of the population.

HIV can survive outside of the body for 14 days. Therefore, don't take it lightly or any other sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, herpes, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, **which increase** the risk of contracting HIV.

The Epistle of Jude

Jude 1,2— *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: 2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.*

I. There is a God---There is one True God

- A. There is a God that sanctifies, preserves and calls, v.1
- B. There is a God of Mercy, Peace and Love, v.2
- C. There is a God of Glory, Majesty, Dominion and Power, v.25
- D. There is a God of Grace, Faith and Judgment, vv.3-5

II. There are some true servants of God. v.1

- A. There are true servants of God The Father, v.1
Sanctified by God the Father, v.1
- B. There are some true servants of Jesus Christ the Son, v.1
Preserved in Jesus Christ, and called, v.1
- C. There are some true servants of the Holy Ghost, v.20
Filled with a diligent Holy Faith, Love, Mercy, compassion,
fear and purity. vv.3,20-24

Jude 3—*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

There is an enemy and his adversary is the devil. What does an enemy do? He attacks. We must be aware of the strategies of the enemy in order to maintain a strong defense and offense. Awareness of the enemy's tactics is important, but before that we must make sure of our position in Christ.

Jude 1:1—*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ*

Strengthen your position **as a Christian: a Christ follower.**
Strengthen your position **as a leader: Walk in His steps.**

I Peter 2:21—*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow his steps:***

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Romans 4:12—*And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who **also walk in the steps of that faith** of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.*

We must make our position in Christ sure before we confront the enemy. If there is a place in our life for the devil to get a hold of us, he is going to try!

The main purpose in this chapter on Jude is to aid in memorizing the Epistle of Jude by giving a better understanding of it.

Jude is not addressed to any specific church or individual; therefore, it is called a *general epistle*, and is written to all Christians everywhere.

Jude was inspired from the beginning and he begins his letter in a manner that was customary for his time; which provides for the reader a place to get a grasp similar to the handle of a sword.

Jude does write about the “common salvation.” He does not change his purpose; he simply intensifies his focus and begins to focus on an extremely unstable area for Christians in general. We have an adversary that is subtle but so violent. He is on a “seek, kill, and destroy” mission; a mission that is designed to discourage, deceive, and devour every child of God. (John 10:10; I Peter 5:8)

This sly enemy knows that the time to devour is during spiritual infancy, and the most success will be in the area of teaching or training. Jude recognizes this and says, after much serious contemplation about salvation in general, it was necessary for him to focus on this area that **the enemy attacks**.

Therefore, Jude stands out as one of the great generals of the faith when it comes to training troops and arming them for withstanding the enemy. His epistle gives us the philosophy and principles for an effective defense “against the wiles of the devil.”

Paul lays out the description of our adversary and of the soldier’s armor for contending with him in Ephesians 6:10-18. Jude lays out the description of the soldier’s mind set and tactics for contending with the enemy.

Jude 4 –*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We have to fight for that which is right, wholesome, and blessed because we have an adversary that is cunningly deceiving so many. It is for the sake of some that we need to form a bulwark and stand against his works. His strategy is to use “certain men,” a variety of men, or men that *look just like anybody else*, to carry out his

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treachery. They come in as it were *through the side door* unnoticed, without any fanfare, just quietly. These men have been previously selected for their mission of subversion. They begin by interpreting the precious grace, mercy, and long-suffering of God as a license to be selfish and to commit sin. They say words like: "We all sin a little every day." Then, they step down to: "It's O.K. that we sin every day," and then to: "God expects us to sin every day," until they stoop to actual denial of the Father and the Son. "*He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son,*" I John 2:22

Jude 5,7— *I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.⁶ And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day*

- *I will therefore put you in remembrance*
- *though ye once knew this*

"Remember," he says; or, "I will remind you, though you have known all along."

- *how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt*
- *afterward destroyed them that believed not.*
- *Angels— reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day*

Jude gives a little history of apostasy and some examples of God's judgment : 1)God delivered and 2)God judged.

Some do not maintain a position of safety (or, *salvation*). First, there are those who God has delivered in the past, like Israel from Egypt. Previous deliverance is not a guarantee of final, ultimate safety. The answer is simply to continue submitting to and believing in God, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. Be on guard against rebellion. Next, there are the angels. No honest man presumes to be angelic, but even if he were, that condition is not a guarantee for safety. The remedy here is **vigilance**, which is often connected with **prayer** when it refers to the believer.

- We cannot afford to take life so lightly.
- *Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
- *Stay believing, keep in His Love.*

These angels were not watchful, and did not appreciate and stay in their place of safety. Thus, they are being held as prisoners on death row. Their judgment, however, will not be momentary—it will

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be eternal. You cannot befriend the devil at all and not suffer for it; the devil is **always** an adversary.

Jude 7—*Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

There are those who are so ensnared by pleasure-seeking and promiscuity, like Sodom and Gomorra, who will not heed and obey the moral laws of God, which He has inscribed on the conscience of every human being, who also will be punished in Hell. They refuse to forsake their vile, self-gratifying ways and flee to the place of refuge. The antidote is to know and obey God's Word.

Jude 8—*Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

So also is the case with the false teachers of his day and ours. They also will be judged for their vile imaginations. Jude says they soil both the thinking and the conduct with their corrupt ideas. They reject or *cast off* any form of government, including God's authoritative Word. Also, they attempt to undermine the position and influence of those that are ordained and established in positions of authority.

(Ephesians 4:11, 12; Hebrews 13:17)

Jude 9,10—*Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.¹⁰ But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.*

Jude cautions us about railing against those in whom God has placed in power, authority, and anointing. He uses as an illustration the time when "Michael the archangel," (a *chief* angel and considered to be the Angel of War) did not rail on Satan. He points out that Michael instead used the Lord's authority and rebuked him. We need to understand that we have no power to thwart or combat the enemy in ourselves or on our own. All that we have is found in His power and authority—"The blood of Jesus is against you, Satan; and, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

Jude 11—*Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

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“Woe unto them!” Jude declares. He says grief is coming their way because: (Compare with I John 2:15-17):

- 1) They have acted according to their own design and desires, like Cain.
- 2) Cain’s initial grievance, his jealousy, and his ultimate act of selfishness (murder) stemmed from his own presumptuous plan and act to worship God in his own way. Such thinking has been captured in the refrain of a certain song, which proclaims, “... and I did it my way.” Cain’s way, which is the way of *self*, will lead to destruction.
- 3) They have reasoned from circumstances and human logic (and, have sought personal gain and glory), like Balaam (Numbers 22-24), who was not only willing, but also sought God and actually went to curse God’s children simply because of what he had judged from what he had seen or heard. Balak’s messenger had said, “Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me,” Numbers 22:5, 6.
- 4) They have also been contradictory and contentious, like Core (Korah, Numbers 16). They have refused to admit the value, worth, authority, or position of others. Pride, rebellion, and jealousy have been their adversary.

Jude 12,13—*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*

Jude further describes these crafty, presumptuous gainsayers or false teachers as: “Spots in your feasts of charity,” “clouds...without water,” “trees whose fruit withereth,” “raging waves of the sea,” and “wandering stars.” What is the meaning of this imagery? What does Jude mean by these word pictures? These word pictures depict the treacherous nature and the instability of false teachers. The word *spots* should not be confused with *soil* or *blemishes*. This term denotes a *ledge* or *reef of rock* in the sea. In other words, these men are like those hidden rocks that cause ships to wreck even though they are close to shore (home, harbor, safety) and without any consideration of the fact that you are sacrificing for the benefit of others “feasts of charity”. They are as dangerous in the church as hidden rocks are in the ocean.

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Jude's second word picture refers to them as resembling or appearing to be something that they are not. It also refers to their changeable and undependable nature that is like the clouds, which are blown about by wind.

Word picture number three portrays them to be like trees that have been blown over by a storm. The leaves have dried up and blown away, the fruit still hangs on the branch but it has shriveled up, and the tree itself is dead because it has been "plucked up by the roots." Many lessons might be drawn from this word picture but here are just a few:

- They are not good for shade (protection from the heat of life.)
- They are not useful as landmarks because they have been uprooted.
- They are not dependable as a source of sustenance.

Then, he pictures them as the churning, foaming, even wildly raging "waves of the sea." False teachers can be very dangerous to those who are carried about by the tumult, but, to the person who stands safely on shore (The Rock) the "raging" of the false is merely boisterous noise. It is the noise they make that deceives the unwary and ultimately drowns them in deceptions.

Lastly, Jude presents them as "stars" or *planets* that roam across the sky. Over time this term came to mean *an erratic teacher*.

Verses fourteen to nineteen continue with Jude's vivid description of false teachers and God's judgment on them and on those who are duped by them.

Finally, Jude closes with words of praise to God and with wise counsel to those who want to do more than just "hold the fort." If you want to be a member of the *special forces* (storm trooper, commando) Conqueror, Overcomer you need to:

- 1) Establish and strengthen yourself in the faith. (like a weight trainer)
- 2) Pray in the Holy Ghost.
- 3) Keep yourself in the love of God. (You can be loyal to truth and yet lack love.)
- 4) Recognize the mercy of God at work in your life and in others.
- 5) Have compassion on some. (Many will not let you help them.)
- 6) Be friend enough to others to tell them just like it is, plainly.
- 7) Remember that it is only Jesus who can keep us from falling.
- 8) Know that He will "present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."
- 9) **Give "to the only wise God our Saviour...glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever."**

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¹**Endnotes and Citations**

A spiritual and philosophical book that discusses God, Jesus, science, cosmology, religion, history and destiny. It originated in Chicago, Illinois, USA, sometime between 1924 and 1955. The Urantia Book denies some fundamental Christian doctrines.

² Karl Marx is the founder of communism who had 6 children: 3 died by starvation as infants and 2 committed suicide. Only 6 people came to his funeral.

³ “Timothy Francis Leary”, The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition ©2008 Columbia University Press

⁴ The Gay Experiment That Started AIDS In America By Alan Cantwell, M.D, www.rense.com